



7th International conference on

RETHINKING CLUSTERS, ECOSYSTEMS, AND PLACES IN SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS

09 - 10 May 2024, University of Padova

Join us at the University of Padova for the seventh edition of our international conference, building on the success of last year's vibrant gathering in Valencia. This year, the focus extends beyond the critical issues and new trajectories of cluster research to spotlight how clusters, ecosystems, and places address the challenges of sustainability transitions.

The conference will delve into emergent issues related to the sustainability of places, exploring the transformative impact of artificial intelligence, mission-oriented innovation policies, circular economy practices, smart manufacturing, social entrepreneurship, and responsible innovation. As sustainability transitions necessitate systemic changes in interactions among people, organizations, and the environment, we recognize the imperative to expand knowledge bases. This involves understanding the micro and meso dynamics of these changes and bridging disciplinary, geographical, cultural, and institutional boundaries, as well as fostering collaboration between scholars and practitioners.

Conference themes include, but are not limited to:

1. The sustainability of places: industrial districts, clusters, regions, and ecosystems
2. The transformative power of artificial intelligence, big data, block-chain, and Industry 4.0
3. Mission-oriented industrial strategies and innovation policies
4. Novel socio-technical regimes and sustainable innovation to address the just transition
5. Culture, creativity, and tourism and their effects on sustainable development of places
6. Innovation ecosystems and networks: agents' positions, structure and dynamics
7. Smart cities, urban development, peripheries and marginal areas
8. Inequality mitigation, social innovation, and wellbeing: organizations, individuals, and communities
9. Meeting the objectives of carbon neutrality: circular economy, zero waste, renewable energy and composting communities
10. Exploring the dark side of innovation: the unexpected outcomes of the socio-technological progress
11. History, path dependency, resilience, and evolutionary trajectories of territories
12. The rise of hostility: how do populism, nationalism, conflicts, and terrorism change economies and places
13. Global value chain and sustainable local development
14. Regional development traps and catch-ups
15. The flows of people and goods and their impact on entrepreneurship and innovation in places
16. Competitiveness and innovation in industrial districts, clusters, regions, and ecosystems



We invite submissions from scholars in the social and scientific sciences, practitioners, innovators, and leaders who present innovative approaches in concepts, theory, methods, or analysis with profound implications for informing transitions to sustainability. Submissions can employ observational, experimental, or theory-driven modes of inquiry. Join us in shaping the future of sustainable development.

Organizational matters

The conference is scheduled to be held at the "Marco Fanno" Department of Economics and Management and at the Centro Universitario Padovano at the University of Padua on **May 9th-10th, 2024**.

Prospective contributors are encouraged to submit their extended abstracts or full papers to the email address info@rethinkingclusters.org, starting from February 1st until March 18th, 2024. Extended abstracts should have a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 2500 words, allowing for the inclusion of figures, tables, and/or images that do not count towards the word limit. Full papers should not exceed 10,000 words, inclusive of the abstract (150 words), tables, references, figure captions, and endnotes. Notification of acceptance for extended abstracts/full papers will be communicated by March 29th, 2024.

Participants interested in organizing special sessions within the conference are invited to contact the local organizers by February 29th, providing a session description and a list of participants. Notification of acceptance for special session proposals will be communicated by March 8th.

Details regarding registration and fees are as follows:

- Participation fee: €180
- Reduced fee for PhD students and young scholars (within 5 years from the PhD degree): €100

The participation fee covers the reception on the 8th, as well as coffee breaks and lunches on the 9th and 10th. Additionally, for those interested in attending the social dinner on the 9th, a contribution of €60 is kindly requested. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in making this event enjoyable for all participants.

Registration opens on March 29th, and all pertinent information will be available on the conference website. We look forward to your participation in this intellectually stimulating event.

Local organizers: Silvia Rita Sedita (silvia.sedita@unipd.it), Amir Maghssudipour (amir.maghssudipour@unipd.it).

Co-organizers: Luciana Lazzeretti (luciana.lazzeretti@unifi.it), Francesco Capone (francesco.capone@unifi.it) and Annalisa Caloffi (annalisa.caloffi@unifi.it) at the University of Florence; Rafael Boix (rafael.boix@uv.es) at the University of Valencia and Jose-Luis Hervas-Oliver, (jose.hervas@omp.upv.es) at Universitat Politècnica de València.



Important dates

Special session proposal deadline:	February 29 th , 2024
Submission deadline:	March 18 th , 2024
Notification of acceptance:	March 29 th , 2024
Registration deadline:	April 21 st , 2024
Conference dates:	May 09 th -10 th , 2024

Publications opportunities

A **selection of papers** will be considered for possible publication in a **Special Issue** of an international journal or in an **edited book** published by an international publisher.

PhD candidates and young scholars session

On the day preceding the conference (May 8th), we have reserved a special program exclusively for PhD candidates and Young Scholars. This dedicated day offers a unique opportunity to participate in a specialized workshop on research methods. Attendees will engage in discussions about potential advancements in their ongoing projects, exploring cutting-edge methodologies such as experimental research design, social network analysis, natural language processing, and geographical information systems in an informal and interactive setting.

Please note that registration for this session is mandatory, and the deadline for registration is April 21st. The conference registration fee includes access to this exclusive workshop session, providing valuable insights and fostering collaborative learning among emerging scholars. Don't miss this chance to enhance your research skills and connect with fellow PhD candidates and Young Scholars.

VISIT THE WEBSITE: <https://www.rethinkingclusters.org/>